

ARIZONA RESOURCES

For more information about Assistive Technology:

- Arizona Technology Access Program
Northern Arizona University
Institute for Human Development
2400 N. Central Ave., Suite 300
Phoenix, AZ 85004
(602) 728-9534 Voice
(602) 728-9536 TTY
(602) 728-9353 FAX
(800) 477-9921 Toll-Free
<http://www.nau.edu/ihd/aztap>

For information about Alzheimer's disease:

- Arizona Department of Economic Security
Aging and Adult Administration
1789 W. Jefferson St., 950A
Phoenix, AZ 85007
(602)-542-4446
<http://www.azdes.gov>
- Alzheimer's Association
Desert Southwest Chapter
1028 E. McDowell Rd.
Phoenix, AZ 85005
(602)-528-0545
(800)-272-3900 Helpline
<http://www.alzdsd.org>

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program Under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Department must make a reasonable accommodation to allow a person with a disability to take part in a program, service, or activity. For example, this means that if necessary, the Department must provide sign language interpreters for people who are deaf, a wheelchair accessible location, or enlarged print materials. It also means that the Department will take any other reasonable action that allows you to take part in and understand a program or activity, including making reasonable changes to an activity. If you believe that you will not be able to understand or take part in a program or activity because of your disability, please let us know of your disability needs in advance if at all possible. This document is available in alternative formats by contacting (602)-542-4446.

Source: Health Canada website and Media Photo Gallery, Health Canada, <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca>. Some parts of the image on the cover reproduced with the permission of the Minister of Public Works and Government Services Canada, 2005.

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY & ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE



Arizona Department of Economic Security
Quality Service, Organizational Pride,
Client Self-Sufficiency

AAA-1102APAMNA (1-06)

Resources for Caregivers

Alzheimer's disease presents significant challenges to the person who has it and that person's primary caregivers—most often the spouse or adult children.

Alzheimer's disease is a progressive illness characterized by the degeneration of brain cells that control learning and memory. Over time, the disease will affect one's ability to think, reason, remember and communicate.

Regardless of disease or disability, most people want to live as independently as possible and enjoy the freedom of doing things for themselves. There are many ways people with Alzheimer's disease can prolong their independence.

Assistive technology (AT) can be useful to both the person who has Alzheimer's and the caregivers. It may soften the effects of the disease and help the person remain independent longer with less frustration.

What Is Assistive Technology?

Assistive Technology is defined as "any item, piece of equipment, or product system, whether acquired commercially off the shelf, modified, or customized, that is used to increase, maintain, or improve functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities."

Think of it as any device, equipment, gadget, etc., that assists a person with living independently and safely for as long as possible. AT includes a broad range of devices and products, from simple to complex.

Assistive technology devices work to enhance an individual's existing abilities or compensate for absent or diminished skills. Assistive technology can be a valuable support that allows a person with Alzheimer's disease to remain at home, in familiar surroundings, for a longer period of time.

There are many types of assistive technology that can be used by people with Alzheimer's and their caregivers. Here are a few examples:

Pill Organizer



This device sounds an alert when it is time to take medication. Pre-sorted pills eliminate the dilemma of which pills to take.

Picture Phone



For people who have trouble remembering numbers. Pictures of family and friends can be pasted under the clear buttons. Just press the picture of the person you want to call!

Lip Plate



Food can be pushed to the edge of the lip and scooped up in a fork or spoon with less spillage. Suction cups keep the plate in place.



This brochure and its companion piece, "Assistive Technology and Alzheimer's Disease: A Resource Guide for Caregivers" are available in print and electronic formats. They were developed by the Arizona Technology Access Program (AzTAP), a program of the Institute for Human Development at Northern Arizona University. AzTAP's mission is to promote awareness, access to and acquisition of assistive technology for people with disabilities across the age span. It is funded primarily by the U.S. Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration. AzTAP is the statewide assistive technology program under the Assistive Technology Act of 1998, as amended.

This project is supported, in part, by grant number 90AZ2776 from the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Aging, Washington, DC 20201. The views or opinions expressed in this document do not necessarily represent the views or policies of the Administration on Aging.